

GENE GREEN
29TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

- 2470 RAYBURN
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1688
 - 256 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY. E
SUITE 29
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060
(281) 999-5879
 - 11811 I-10 EAST
SUITE 430
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029
(713) 330-0761
- WWW.HOUSE.GOV/GREEN

728

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

- SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER
- SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
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DEMOCRATIC SENIOR WHIP

September 8, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am contacting you in regards to the Joint Petition for Rulemaking requested by America's Public Television Stations, the AWARN Alliance, the Consumer Technology Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters on the Next Generation TV standard.

The Next Generation TV transmission standard (ATSC 3.0), developed by a broad range of stakeholders, including the broadcast, consumer electronics, and cable industries, holds the promise of providing an enhanced product and related services to American consumers at little to no cost to the public. The Next Generation TV will improve our nation's emergency broadcast system, including provide micro-targeting for local weather and public safety emergencies for communities throughout the United States. Most encouraging, local broadcasters are only requesting for permission to use the new transmission standard that will neither require additional spectrum, public funds, nor require changes to the current digital television standard.

I was encouraged by the FCC's Public Notice for Comment on the Joint Petition and your comments "to move with dispatch on next generation TV standards" earlier this year. I agree that federal regulators need to move expeditiously on the new standards. However, I am growing concerned that the Commission may delay taking action on this important matter before the end of the calendar year. Given all the benefits to the public, I request that the FCC release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Next Generation TV standards as soon as reasonably possible.

Thank you for your time and energy on this important matter. I look forward to your prompt response. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance on this or other issues before the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress